

THE CINCINNATI DAILY STAR,
THE ONLY
Low Priced Newspaper
IN
CINCINNATI.
Published Daily Except Sunday.
Price, per single copy..... 2c
Delivered by carrier, per week..... 10c
By mail, postpaid, per month..... 50c
By mail, postpaid, per annum..... \$5.00

The Cincinnati Weekly Star,
A large eight-page paper, especially adapted
to the Family Circle, mailed, postpaid, one
year for \$1.
THE STAR PUBLISHING CO.,
No. 230 Walnut street,
(Adjoining the New Post-office),
Cincinnati, Ohio.

TUESDAY..... DECEMBER 21

The Committees.

Mr. Kerr, after a long delay yesterday, announced the House committees. In making his selections he has evidently come very far from pleasing everybody, and does not, in fact, seem to have made much of an effort in that direction. He ignored many established precedents, and made the committees just as seemed to him best. Whether he has been wise or not in the discharge of this important duty, remains to be seen.

In the Chairmanship of the most important Committee he disappointed all the prophecies of his enemies and the hopes of many of his friends by selecting a Western man. Mr. Morrison, of Illinois, is mentioned as an industrious, clear-headed, but not brilliant man, who has served one term in the House, and made the most of his experience. He is probably known to Mr. Kerr as a man who will develop qualities fitting him for the very important post he has been selected to fill.

The Committee on Pacific Railroads was not constructed to carry out Mr. Kerr's personal views in regard to the Southern Pacific subsidy. He is known to be inimical to the scheme, but has not chosen to use his position as Speaker against it. Mr. Holman, as head of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, will be in a position to check unnecessary expenditures through a channel that has been one of the worst leaks to the Treasury. There will not be much question as to the wisdom of this selection. Our own State, Ohio, has five chairmanships, among them being Mr. Banning, of the Committee on Military Affairs, and Mr. Saylor on Public Lands. The friends of the latter gentleman believed him entitled to the Chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, and are, of course, disappointed, but Ohio has no reason to complain.

Mr. Kerr was elected Speaker, as his enemies in the Democratic party claim, by the Eastern money power, he has disappointed his backers by giving the West and South a heavy preponderance in the committees. The importance of selecting a Speaker who would do this was not appreciated by the party journals of this section that were willing and anxious to sacrifice this advantage for the sake of gratifying personal spite.

In his selection of Chairmen as well as in the formation of the bulk of the committees the great interests of the West have been carefully looked after. This being true, we can the more readily excuse what seems at this time to be most apparent blunders in other matters. There is a healthy indication in the fairness with which the opposition has been treated. The ablest men of the Republican party have been placed where their judgment, experience and party influence will be of most advantage to the country. In this particular the committee selections will be most cordially endorsed both by the members of the controlling party and the opposition.

The New York Herald has made another terrible discovery. It this morning lays before its readers the text of the Constitution of the Order of the American Union, a secret society organized to secure the re-election of President Grant. It claims that the President, Ex-Speaker Blaine, Postmaster General Jewell and other leading Republicans are members. The Herald, of course, by discovering and making public this terrible secret, has again saved the country. Somehow, whenever the country needs saving the great American newspaper always steps to the front just in time to save it. The Herald's ability to set up a straw man, and then fight him with vim, energy and final success, has never been questioned.

The Senate Committee on Commerce was yesterday directed to inquire into the efficiency of Steamboat Inspectors. It would not be asking too much, we should like to suggest that such inquiry be made as will show whether or not these inspectors lavish much of their precious time on steam ferry-boats.

In the search for a Centennial poet Mr. G. W. Childs should not be overlooked. To be poet on such an occasion is just what would most delight the festive editor of the Philadelphia Ledger, and he should be selected this time as he will be too old by the next Centennial.

In New York the Milk Dealers' Association are discussing in a lively manner the relative correctness of the "test valve" and the "lactometer" for the testing of milk. In the meantime the people go on taking as much milk as they can get in the water they use in coffee.

The New York Sun's Washington correspondent, in commenting on the litigation about the Pelican and Davis silver mines and the attendant corruption,

puts down Senator John A. Logan as "the foulest of them all." Who will care for Logan now?

J. PROCTOR KNOTT, of Kentucky, who is assigned the important position of Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, is not very well known to the country as an able lawyer, but no one will ever forget his Duluth speech.

Mr. Saylor and Mr. Banning will have each an opportunity of distinguishing himself as an investigator. The committees over which they preside will have some important matters to look into.

Board of Improvements.

The Board of Improvements met in regular session yesterday, Mayor Johnson in the Chair, and present besides, Messrs. Halpin, Ryan, Sutton, Corbett, Groene and Judge Saffin, from the Second precinct, Twenty-fourth ward.

John Cooper, the successful bidder for the improvement of Ziegler avenue, sent in a communication declining to accept the contract.

Mr. Halpin moved that the contract be awarded to the next lowest bidder, Messrs. Panning & Reynolds.

Mr. Corbett moved to amend by instructing the Clerk to readvertise for proposals.

Mr. Johnson presented the following, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That the Engineer be instructed to inquire into the accuracy of the bills due the city from materials furnished from Columbia avenue, and that he be instructed to have the proper measurements or estimates made, and present the same to this board at the next meeting, and that no settlement be permitted until said report is made."

Assistant Commissioner McHugh reported to the Board that it would be necessary to erect a temporary bridge on the Lower River road where the sewer was being repaired. Referred to City Council.

The Sidewalk Inspector was instructed to notify property-owners on Eastern avenue, having shade trees in front of their premises which overhang the roadway, to have them trimmed or removed, as they are an obstruction to travel.

The parties to be notified are O. E. Flint, Peter Sutton, A. R. Brookhiser, Mrs. James Crowler, S. T. Hamilton, Mrs. Conway, J. B. Doane, Sixth Presbyterian Church, Lewis Glenn, Mr. Hoch, W. Clements, John Dutzongali, Mr. Young, and Joseph Grossman.

On motion of Mr. Corbett the Board resolved to visit Columbia avenue, next Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, to inspect a proposed culvert.

Bids for the grading and paving of East Sixth street, from Gilbert avenue 420 feet south to end of present pavement, were opened, and the bids referred to the Engineer to report the lowest bidder at next meeting.

The pay-roll of the Street Cleaning Department was audited, and ordered paid. It amounts to \$1,283.05.

Court Cullings.

Myers, Thiemann & Co. vs. Wm. Southard. D. Lytle & Co., the same. This was a motion to discharge the defendant from arrest. Motion overruled.

John J. Stites et al. vs. Louisa Wiedemer et al. A decree asked to quiet plaintiff's title. Granted.

The City vs. John Cochnower. Action for the surrender of part of Harriet street. Judgment for the City, requiring the defendant to surrender possession.

Bochers vs. Sanders. Action in ejectment involving a strip of land which was formerly a street vacated by the city. Judgment for defendant.

E. M. Burke vs. John Cratz et al. Petition for the interpretation of a will. The Court held that while the real title to the land was devised to the widow, she held it in trust also partly for herself and her sons. These sons had, therefore, an equitable interest in the land. The son who died had, at the time of his death, an equitable estate in the land, and his widow was entitled to dower in that estate. Hence she was entitled to dower in the one-fifth of the land. Decree accordingly.

John Smith was tried before Judge Avery and a jury yesterday for stealing a lot of velvet from Nathan Menduson. Jury unable to agree.

Bridget Halpin vs. James Watson et al. This was an action to change the separate estate of a married woman.

The Court, in deciding the case, said that it was a decided rule of law that forbearance of a debt at the request of a third party, is a good consideration to support a promise by such third party to pay the debt. And it is settled in this State that a married woman, in respect of her separate property is a legal person, and may bind that estate by contracts, made with intent to charge it, and that she could if she were female sole.

The evidence of Mrs. Watson's intent to charge her separate estate, here, was not very clear; but it would seem to be fairly inferable that one motive on her part, if not the principal one, was to relieve her husband from the importunities of the class of persons for whom the provision was made. Such was the nature of her claims as to warrant the apprehension that, without some such provision, the claimants would become troublesome. Doubtless there was a laudable desire to indemnify persons who could not conveniently suffer a loss of the wages of their labor. Still, for a woman to have been expected to do so, not mutually understood, and it was certain that this idea must have been acted upon by the persons for whom the provision was made.

judgment accordingly.

Douglas & Hewitt et al. vs. Jacob & Mesener. Case up on motion to discharge an attachment. Motion overruled.

Henry Wilson.

There was a large meeting of citizens at Zion Church, on Ninth street, last night for the purpose of giving expression to appropriate sentiments befitting the name and character of the late Henry Wilson, Vice President.

The following gentlemen were designated as a committee to draft resolutions: Rev. B. W. Arnet, A. F. Darrell and Rev. G. W. Hatten.

Among the resolutions was the following:

Resolved, That we recommend the life and character of Henry Wilson to the young and rising generation as one worthy of their study and imitation, a life of usefulness, where energy, honesty and ambition were crystallized with success, and the "cobbler of Natchez" raised from the lowest strata of society to fill with distinction and honor the second office in the gift of a grateful people.

The resolutions were adopted by a rising vote. Speeches were then made by Rev. B. W. Arnet, Ex-Governor Noyes and others on the life and work of the late Vice President, after which the meeting adjourned.

KITTY.

CHAPTER THE FIRST.

"He will be sure to come before the summer is over," said little Kitty to herself.

She was always called little Kitty, although nineteen years old, but she was round and soft and pretty and pettable, and looked like a little kitten, so the name and the adjective suited her perfectly. And she was very careful, in spite of many a temptation to the contrary, not to wear her new white muslin dress at the doctor's wife's or the lawyer's wife's party, and none of her best bows were seen at church, though on many a Sunday the sun shone so brightly it seemed to be almost insulting not to wear them. She was keeping them all for the benefit of John Laurence when next he came to stay at the Laurels, which he was sure to do soon, for he always turned up about twice in the year.

Old Mr. Hughes was very fond of his big, handsome nephew, who had not long attained the elevated position of a lieutenant in the military, and having no sons of his own and the estates being entailed, it was perhaps only natural that he should make much of his heir.

There was another reason, too, why old Hughes made much of John—he wanted him to marry his daughter; nay, it had always been considered a settled thing that John should marry her, and people said that they were engaged. Kitty believed this gossip was all nonsense, for Caroline Hughes was tall and thin, with two large white teeth sticking out in front of her mouth (though she was otherwise agreeable), and, moreover, whenever John Laurence came over to Cragford, he made love to her. He always did it in a half-clandestine fashion that annoyed Kitty excessively, and never paid her marked attentions before other people; still he did not make love to her, that was certain, and she did not believe that he cared for Caroline. Kitty did not like her, and she hated to see John make love to her.

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"I can't imagine why you do not give Mr. Baverstock more encouragement," Mrs. Horton said to her one day. "He will be snapped up soon, for there are very few chances for girls in this dead-alive place."

Mr. Baverstock was a young surgeon who had settled down in Cragford about a year previously. He was a spectacled man with thin legs and red hair, and was not by any means a charming object to behold. He was very devoted to Kitty, as all Cragford knew, but Kitty always snubbed him unmercifully.

"I detest him, mamma," (Kitty's papa had unexpectedly taken to himself a second wife during a visit to London about two years since, and Kitty called her mamma to please him, but there was no love lost between them.) "Why, he's every way a good fellow."

"I would sooner marry the man in the moon," she said restlessly down to read "Lullaby Books" for about the twenty-seventh time that year. It was a beautifully bound edition, radiant in crimson and gold, and protected by tissue paper. Somebody had sent it anonymously to Kitty on her last birthday. She declared she did not know where it came from, and it was quite true she didn't; but she could have made an excellent guess if she had tried.

CHAPTER THE SECOND.

Only a week later, and John Laurence had arrived at the Laurels. Mr. Baverstock brought the news, and when Kitty heard it she looked so pale and so sad, that he felt himself encouraged, and ventured to stay the evening. There was only one vexing thing that he had brought his friend Mr. Fletcher with him again. He had accompanied John Laurence on his last two visits to Cragford, and Kitty had felt on each occasion that he had been decidedly in the way; for when alone with her, he would be so friendly, but when she was out for a walk, Mr. Fletcher had not been far off, and she devoutly wished him at Jericho.

"I hear Miss Hughes' marriage is to come off this summer," Mr. Baverstock said, in his weak alto voice; "and now that she is married, she will be here I dare say, and it will be all arranged."

"No doubt," said Mrs. Horton, a little spitefully, for she had noticed his attentions to Kitty, and felt they boded her no good—probably put ridiculous ideas into her head, and prevented her from accepting the illustrious Frederick, who was ready to throw himself at her feet on the slightest provocation, and who always heard that they were very much attached to each other."

Mrs. Horton hadn't heard anything of the kind; but no matter—she was given to fibbing.

The very next day the hero called. He looked handsome and cheerful. Kitty looked at him with a mixture of surprise and indignation. He was bigger, and his face more sunburnt. He talked chiefly to Mrs. Horton, but he kept looking across at Kitty—that pretty, innocent, round-faced girl, with the sparkle in her downcast eyes and the flush on her dimpled cheeks—till he made her heart beat with happiness and excitement.

"My little Miss Kitty," he said, suddenly fumbling in the big pocket of his loose tweed coat, "I have a note for you. There's to be some croquet up at the Laurels on Thursday, and my aunt wants you to come."

The white muslin dress was donned, and the coquettish hat and the little make-believe wraps twisted about his shoulders to the best advantage, and Kitty was ready for the party at the Laurels. She did look very pretty, as even her step-mother secretly acknowledged.

"Remember, Kitty, I shall expect you home by 7 o'clock. It is not right for you to come later than I get further on. Indeed, I think Mr. Hughes ought to have asked me to chaperon you."

"Yes, mamma," and Kitty went on her joyful way. The woods Mrs. Horton alluded to were private ones, belonging to the Laurels, but they made a short cut for Kitty, and saved her a good half-mile of road. "Perhaps he will come and meet me," she thought shyly, and strained her eyes to catch sight of his awkward figure in the distance, but it did not appear. There presently she heard the distant church-chime chiming half-past three. "There! I'm much too early. We were not asked till four. I know what I'll do when I get further on. I'll sit down in a shady part of the wood and wait till about five minutes after the hour." So she went on, and when she was within a quarter of a mile of the house branched off into a thick part of the wood and following a sleepy stream that wandered on beneath the tall trees and among the make-believe underwood, flecked with water-lilies and fringed with yellow iris, which nodded their golden heads to the sun.

She found a quiet leafy nook close to its edge, and sat down and waited. Then suddenly through the distant trees she saw coming along the edge of the stream two figures, those of a man and a woman. She knew at a glance that it was John Laurence; the other she saw a minute later was his cousin Caroline. With a bound, her heart seemed to come into her throat. "It's Miss Hughes," she said to herself, "and how nice she looks, and what a pretty dress she has on." She drew her white muslin closer round her, and retreated a few inches further back behind the thick bushes, so that they might pass her unperceived, and waited. On they came, arm in arm, talking earnestly and in a low voice. The color fled from Kitty's cheek, and the light died out of her eyes, as she saw them. She drew her white muslin closer round her, and retreated a few inches further back behind the thick bushes, so that they might pass her unperceived, and waited. 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